



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

**Monday, April 6, 2015
Meeting Report**

Attendance: D. Sterner, S. Marmarou, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer, B. Rivera

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

Annarose Milch (appointment – Stadium Commission)

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz explained that these interviews are similar to job interviews to ensure a good fit. She questioned if Ms. Milch understands the purpose of the Stadium Commission. Ms. Milch stated that she understands it is to advocate for and promote baseball in Reading and to act as liaison between the Phils and the City.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned why Ms. Milch was interested in serving the City in this capacity. Ms. Milch stated that she has time to volunteer. She stated that she is a life-long baseball fan and that both her husband and son coach and play baseball. She stated that she would prefer not to serve the City in another capacity.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if there was another female on the Commission. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that there is one female currently serving.

Mr. Marmarou questioned what Ms. Milch would like to accomplish while serving on the Commission. Ms. Milch explained that she is a professional trainer and consultant. She stated that first she would listen and learn as she has not yet attended a meeting. She noted the need for the Commission to act professionally.

Mr. Marmarou stated that much has changed since he served as a member of this Commission. He stated that in the past Commission members worked at every game but that is no longer the case. He stated that the Commission gets a small budget.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that the Commission members and the Phils should determine the role of Commission.

Mr. Denbowski arrived at this time.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the stadium is a great City asset.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz explained that the Commission meets on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. She questioned if Ms. Milch could attend meetings at that time. Ms. Milch stated that she could.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if Mr. DeVera was chair. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that he is.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need to be aware of conflicts of interest. Ms. Milch agreed and stated that the perception of a conflict must also be understood.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need to study the relationship between the Phils and Baseballtown Charities.

Mr. Sterner questioned how the relationship between the City and the Phils could be improved. Ms. Milch stated that new Commission members would change the dynamic of the meetings and the relationships. She noted the need to determine the current dynamic and relationships before changes can be made.

Mr. Denbowski stated that opening night is April 17. He stated that the Commission has assumed that Ms. Milch and Mr. Graybill will be appointed by Council before opening night and that a place has been reserved for them during the ceremony. He stated that he and Mr. Spencer attended the Commission's last meeting and that Mr. DeVera was reappointed to chair and Ms. Knockstead will continue as vice chair/secretary/treasurer. He noted the need for clarification of the \$5,000 annual budget amount. He stated that currently it is earmarked toward a capital project at the stadium.

Mr. Marmarou stated that in the past the Commission had a larger revenue source and set its own budget.

Mr. Denbowski stated that at the last meeting the Commission voted to use \$4,500 for sidewalk repairs at the stadium and \$500 for promotional items. He stated that Ms. Kelleher provided clarity on the Commission budget and that they will need to vote at the next meeting to use the

entire \$5,000 for the sidewalk repairs. He stated that there is \$900 in a CD which will be cashed in.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the funding has decreased since the operations at the stadium changed.

Mr. Denbowski stated that the Mayor has clarified the role of Public Works in capital projects at the stadium and a liaison will be attending meetings. He noted the need for the City to be more active in the capital projects. He expressed the belief that the Stadium Commission is a service organization.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the Recreation Commission has a legal opinion regarding Mr. DeVera's ability to be employed by the Rec Commission and be a member of the Stadium Commission. She stated that the opinion allows him to serve in both capacities. She requested that Ms. Katzenmoyer contact Ms. Klahr for the opinion to distribute to Council.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Annarose Milch to the Stadium Commission.

William Long (appointment – CRIZ Authority)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Long was interested in serving the City in this capacity. Mr. Long stated that he is interested in growing the City and that he would like to help it do well. He stated that he likes and respects Mr. Rye and expressed the belief that it will be successful with Mr. Rye's leadership.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if Mr. Long was familiar with CRIZ and how it would apply to Reading. Mr. Long stated that he is familiar with the NIZ in Allentown and that Allentown is a client at M & T Bank where he is employed. He stated that CRIZ is not perfect but is an additional tool that Reading can use. He noted his background in banking and expressed the belief that this will give additional credibility to the Authority board. He stated that being awarded a CRIZ will be positive for Reading.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Long had any project suggestions. Mr. Long stated that he does not but that all should keep an open mind in regard to projects. He noted the need to find good partners.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Bethlehem was part of the Allentown NIZ. Mr. Long stated that it is not. He stated that Bethlehem was awarded a CRIZ and their first project is a Bass Pro Shop near the casino. He stated that Lancaster was also awarded a CRIZ but that he is not familiar with their projects.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the approach that should be taken with potential projects in Reading. Mr. Long noted the need to maximize the program. He stated that there are many different types of projects. He noted the need for the project to make sense for Reading. He stated that he has been in the Reading area for 35 years and wants to see improvement. He expressed the belief that the Hotel is a big positive for Reading.

Mr. Sterner stated that the CRIZ for Reading has not yet been approved. Mr. Long agreed and stated that there is much work to be done now to prepare and apply for designation.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned how the project would improve Penn St. Mr. Long noted the need for all to keep an open mind as the best project may not be located on Penn St.

Mr. Marmarou questioned the openings on the Authority. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that there are three openings. Mr. Long stated that Mr. Rye is recruiting additional applicants.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of William Long to the CRIZ Authority.

Mr. Marmarou explained the number of businesses owned by Greek immigrants on Penn St in the past.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that non-City residents may serve on this Authority as long as they do not outnumber City residents. She stated that she verified this information with Mr. Younger before the interview was scheduled.

II. Minority Business Procurement Board/Equal Business Opportunity Board

Ms. Katzenmoyer reviewed the brief provided to Council. She stated that the Administration would like Council action on this issue before the primary election. She requested that Council review the proposed legislation and provide comments by April 20 so that it can be discussed at the April 27 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed with the need to discuss this legislation directly with the Mayor and the full body of Council at a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the work of the committee will continue. She requested that when Councilors review the legislation they also read the comments down the right hand side. She stated that these issues must be resolved before action can be taken.

Mr. Sterner questioned what this Committee would do. Mr. Denbowski stated that the City is currently working on a contract inventory. He stated that this Committee would ensure that the City's bidding process is more inclusive. He explained that awarding contracts through the

CoStar system is convenient, but that it may not be inclusive of local establishments or be socially responsible.

Mr. Sterner questioned if this Committee would oversee City purchasing. Mr. Denbowski stated that it could make contract language recommendations to purchasing. He stated that it would also conduct outreach to bring local businesses into the City's purchasing processes. He stated that they may assist with policy.

Mr. Marmarou noted the need for discussion with the full body of Council. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this will occur at the April 27 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mr. Denbowski stated that the Mayor's office, the Council office, and the Law office are working together on this project. He noted the need for collaboration.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk